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General Assembly

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United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
Nineteenth meeting
18–22 June 2018

Format and annotated provisional agenda

1. Pursuant to resolution 54/33, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the two Co-Chairs appointed by the President of the Assembly will develop, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions at the Informal Consultative Process that best facilitates its work, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Assembly. It is recalled that the mandate of the Informal Consultative Process was extended by the Assembly for three-year periods in resolutions 57/141 and 60/30, and for additional two-year periods in resolutions 63/111, 65/37 A, 67/78, 69/245 and 71/257.

2. On the basis of consultations with delegations and an informal preparatory meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 19 March 2018, the Co-Chairs, Pennelope Althea Beckles (Trinidad and Tobago) and Kornelios Korneliou (Cyprus), have developed a format for the discussions at the nineteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process (see annex I) and have proposed a provisional agenda for the meeting (see annex II).

3. The areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "Anthropogenic underwater noise" are presented in annex III and are intended to identify important issues that the discussion panel may wish to consider.

4. The Informal Consultative Process is invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda.

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Annex I

Format for the nineteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Methods of work

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/33, the nineteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea will work through plenary sessions and a discussion panel.

2. The plenary sessions and discussion panel will be open to participation by all those listed in paragraph 3 (a) of General Assembly resolution 54/33 and by representatives of major groups, as identified in section III of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

3. Within the constraints of the available space, such representatives of major groups and other observers will be free to attend the plenary sessions in accordance with established practice.

Agenda

4. The Co-Chairs will propose a provisional agenda setting out a programme of work for the meeting and a timetable for the plenary sessions and the discussion panel. The provisional agenda will take into account paragraphs 346 to 348 and 354 of General Assembly resolution 72/73. The nineteenth meeting will consider and adopt its agenda and timetable accordingly.

Discussion panel

5. As the General Assembly recalled in paragraph 354 of its resolution 72/73, it had decided, in paragraph 339 of its resolution 71/257, that the meeting would focus its discussions on the theme "Anthropogenic underwater noise". On the basis of their consultations with delegations, the Co-Chairs have proposed an outline for the topic to be considered by the discussion panel. The Co-Chairs intend to invite a limited number of panellists to launch the discussions by making short presentations on relevant aspects.

Outcome of the nineteenth meeting

6. The outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs' summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. As with past practice, the outcome will include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The advance and unedited text of the summary will be presented to the meeting. The summary will be for reference purposes only. The Co-Chairs will transmit the outcome of the meeting to the President of the General Assembly.

Annex II

Annotated provisional agenda for the nineteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Monday, 18 June 2018

10 a.m.–1 p.m.[a]

First plenary session

Item 1. Opening of the nineteenth meeting

1. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States, or their designated representatives, will open the proceedings on behalf of the Secretary-General.

2. The Co-Chairs will make opening remarks.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

3. The Informal Consultative Process is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to adopt the agenda of the nineteenth meeting. The schedule of agenda items is only indicative; items may be advanced, depending on the progress made in the discussions.

Item 3. General exchange of views

4. It is suggested that, during the general exchange of views, delegations may wish to address in particular the topic of the nineteenth meeting, "Anthropogenic underwater noise".

5. Owing to time constraints and the potential number of speakers, delegations are kindly requested to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.

3–6 p.m.[a]

Discussion panel
Anthropogenic underwater noise

6. On the basis of areas of concentration for the discussion panel set forth in annex III, it is proposed that the discussion panel segments be organized as set out below. It is proposed that each segment begin with panel presentations, followed by discussions among delegations and panellists.

Segment 1
Sources and environmental and socioeconomic aspects of anthropogenic underwater noise

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

[a] Sessions will begin promptly.

Tuesday, 19 June 2018

10 a.m.–1 p.m.[a]

Discussion panel

Segment 1 (continued)
Sources and environmental and socioeconomic aspects of anthropogenic underwater noise

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

3 p.m.–4.30 p.m.[a]

Segment 1 (continued)
Sources and environmental and socioeconomic aspects of anthropogenic underwater noise

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

4.30 p.m.– 6 p.m.[a]

Segment 2
Cooperation and coordination in addressing anthropogenic underwater noise

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Wednesday, 20 June 2018

10 a.m.–1 p.m.[a]

Discussion panel

Segment 2 (continued)
Cooperation and coordination in addressing anthropogenic underwater noise

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

3–6 p.m.[a]

Segment 2 (continued)
Cooperation and coordination in addressing anthropogenic underwater noise

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Thursday, 21 June 2018

10 a.m.–1 p.m.[a]

Second plenary session

Item 4. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination

7. In accordance with the terms of reference for UN-Oceans adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/70, the United Nations Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as the UN-Oceans focal point, represents

UN-Oceans at relevant meetings, including those under the Assembly. To ensure transparency and accountability, UN-Oceans, upon request from the Assembly, reports to Member States in the context of the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process. In that regard, and pending such request, the UN-Oceans focal point will be invited to make a brief statement on the activities of UN-Oceans.

Item 5. Process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly

8. The Informal Consultative Process will consider the recommendation of the General Assembly in paragraph 348 of resolution 72/73, that the "Informal Consultative Process devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the Assembly during informal consultations concerning the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea". Delegations will be invited to make general statements and be given the opportunity to present specific proposals in that regard.

Item 6. Issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea

9. The Informal Consultative Process will be presented with a composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly, prepared by the Co-Chairs on the basis of the relevant section of the reports on the work of the Informal Consultative Process from its fourth to its eighteenth meetings (A/58/95, A/59/122, A/60/99, A/61/156, A/62/169, A/63/174 and A/63/174/Corr.1, A/64/131, A/65/164, A/66/186, A/67/120, A/68/159, A/69/90, A/70/78, A/71/204 and A/72/95). The Co-Chairs will inform the Informal Consultative Process of the additional issues that will have been suggested by delegations during the nineteenth meeting for inclusion in the list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the Assembly.

10. The Co-Chairs will recall that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/257, paragraph 335, a further review of the effectiveness and utility of the Informal Consultative Process will be undertaken by the Assembly at its seventy-third session. Delegations will be invited to make general statements.

3–6 p.m.[a]

[Reserved]

Friday, 22 June 2018

10 a.m.–1 p.m.[a]

Third plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting

11. The Informal Consultative Process will be provided with an opportunity to consider the outcome of the meeting. In accordance with the format for the meeting (see annex I), the outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs' summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. In addition, the outcome will include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The summary will be for reference purposes only.

3–6 p.m.[a]

Fourth plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting (continued)

Annex III

Proposed areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "Anthropogenic underwater noise"

Information contained in the report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly decided in its resolution 71/257 and recalled in its resolution 72/73 that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the nineteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea would focus its discussions on the topic "Anthropogenic underwater noise". Pending issuance of the report of the Secretary-General to the seventy-third session of the Assembly (A/73/68) in all official languages, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has made available on its website (www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm) advance unedited reporting material relating to this topic.

Discussion panel segments

2. In considering the possible approaches for structuring the discussion panel segments in relation to the topic of focus, it may be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/33, consistent with the framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and chapter 17 of Agenda 21, established the Informal Consultative Process to facilitate its annual review, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs by considering the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced. Furthermore, the Assembly, in its resolution 72/73, recognized the role of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics. It also recognized the primary role of the Informal Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development.

3. In considering the topic of focus, it is proposed that the respective panel segments concentrate their discussions on the following areas:

(a) *Sources and environmental and socioeconomic aspects of anthropogenic underwater noise*

4. The panel segment could provide a scientific overview of sound, its sources and how it propagates underwater. It could also focus on the environmental aspects of anthropogenic underwater noise, including impacts on different marine species and ecosystems. Furthermore, it could address the socioeconomic aspects of anthropogenic underwater noise. Cumulative impacts could also be considered. Throughout the panel segment, areas where information gaps still exist and where additional research may be needed could be highlighted.

(b) Cooperation and coordination in addressing anthropogenic underwater noise

5. The panel segment could focus on current activities being undertaken at the global, regional and national levels to increase awareness and understanding of anthropogenic underwater noise, as well as measures to address it. Particular emphasis could be given to exploring opportunities for, and challenges to, enhancing cooperation and coordination at all levels, including through multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral partnerships. Issues relating to capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology would also be integrated throughout, with special consideration given to the needs of small island developing States and the least developed countries.